ATTITUDES TOWARD CHILDREN & SPREAD OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

ATTITUDES TOWARD CHILDREN

Typical circumstances of children’s lives?

* Parents didn’t bond emotionally with children because of high mortality rates
* Indifference/neglect because fear of depression if their kids died

Emotional prudence 🡪 distance

* French essayist Michael de Montaigne lost 5 of his 6 kids yet he still said he hates babies & stuff
* Ben Johnson, English poet, was really sad though when his son died from plague so not all parents were like that

Edward Gibbon – “The death of a newborn child before that of its parents may seem unnatural but it is a strictly probable event, since of any given number the greater part are extinguished before the ninth year, before they possess the faculties of the mind and the body.”

* His dad named all his sons Edward, after himself, hoping that at least one would carry on his name
* 5 of his 7 kids died, but two named Edward lived on (one of them being this dude)

General mindset – “spare the rod & spoil the child”

* Discipline is very harsh
* Susannah Wesley was severe with her children and claimed they weren’t allowed to cry (her son John was successful though and grew up to be the founder of Methodism)

Reforming society starts with children

* Enlightenment makes people more fun & loving with children and more entertaining ways of teaching children are adopted
  + You should nurse your babies!
  + Your babies should wear loose clothes for movement!
  + Enlightened thinkers thought the only way to create a new society was to reform how people raised their children
* Jean-Jaques Rousseau wrote *Emile or On Education*
  + Breast feeding and natural dress, teach life skills, fresh air, and exercise
  + Girls should learn duties of the house (has an issue with the social lives of Paris women)

THE SPREAD OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Old

* Only wealthy, colleges founded by Jesuits

New: 1650-1700

* Ages 6-12
* Not all population educated
* Specialized in reading and religion
  + Boys: mathematics
  + Girls: needlework

England

* Religious charity schools for the poor
* Church of England, Puritans, Presbyterians, and Quakers all establish charity schools

Scotland

* Believed salvation was achieved through careful scripture study, so they started parish schools which grew greatly in number and educated all classes of people

Prussia

* Wanted all believers to be able to read the Bible and thus effectively serve the state
* Wanted all boys and girls to go to elementary schools

France

* Priests or teaching orders teach the poor
* Fundamentals are catechism, prayers, reading, & writing
* Jean-Baptiste de la Salle’s Brothers of the Christian Schools was one of those teaching orders
  + Their schools were really popular and eventually grew to over 35,000 students

Hapsburg Empire

* Maria Theresa requires 5 hours of school every day for 5 days a week
* Ages 6 to 12
* The people really liked the set up